

COMMENDING LACASA ON ITS 1997-98 PROGRAM YEAR

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 1997*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Latin American Community Alliance for Support and Assistance of Northwest Indiana, Inc. [LACASA], its Adult Education Learners, its Head Start Students, and its Agency Volunteers, on the achievements earned during the 1997-98 program year.

LACASA is dedicated to serving the Hispanic residents of northwest Indiana, who experience difficulty in obtaining needed social and educational services. Some quality services which the organization offers include: an adult education program, geared toward students at all levels; a Head Start program, which provides training in parenting skills, and an opportunity for parents to become empowered in the education of their children; and Access Assistance, a program stressing job search and person and community leadership preparation. Currently, LACASA is working to develop additional programs meant to improve the quality of life for northwest Indiana's Hispanic population. For those in need, LACASA hopes to provide transportation services to its programs, as well as to agencies where its clients are referred. The organization would also like to establish health stations in an effort to assist families in understanding their basic health needs and inform them about how to access the existing health care system. Finally, LACASA hopes to expand its services to the elderly by familiarizing them with in-home care options to prevent unnecessary institutionalization.

Students who have participated in LACASA's 1997-98 Adult Education Learners Program include: Juan Luis Alvarado, Juan Manuel Alvarado, Maria C. Alvarez, Maria Magdalena Alvarez, Armando Arellano, Lesly I. Arellano, Maria Z. Avila, Patricia A. Avila, Alejandra Ayala, Maria Barajas, Joseph Bialorucki, Barry D. Billingshley, Enrique Camacho, Jesus Camacho, Carmen Maria Carrillo, Phung S. Choi, Maria I. Concepcion, Filomeno Contreras, Juan L. Contreras, Gladys M. Coronado, Hiram D. Crespo, Maria L. Cuba, Efrain Delcid, Maria Margarita Delreal, Agustin Diaz, Carmen Flores, Eduardo Garcia, Galdino Garcia, Nestor Garcia, Patricia E. Garcia, Roman Garza, Jose Luis Gonzalez, Magdalena Gonzalez, Sonda D. Gooch, Mary Guerrero, Herhsy Gunn, Carmen Haro, Patricia A. Hayden, Carlos Hermosa, Juan Hernandez, Maria Herrera, George Howard, Alicia Huizar, Vicente Huizar, Matha Ann James, Hermila Lopez, Herminia Lopez, Luis Lopez, Charlean Mack, Luz M. Magana, Maria A. Magana, Marilu Maldonado, Ana Rosa Martinez, Erick J. Martinez, Georgina C. Martinez, Guadalupe G. Martinez, Miguel A. Martinez, Flavia Maya, Lisa M. Medina, Maria Merlos, Urbano Merlos, Egan Morgan, Fidel Nava, Gerardo Nunez, Ruben Ordonez, Alma Rosa Ortiz, Isabel Paz, Carmen Perez, Maribel Ponce, Marcos Juan Puebla, Mase T. Reed, Luis Eduardo Rivera, Danetta M. Robinson, Caridad Rodriguez, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Jose Mario Rodriguez, Nancy Rodriguez, Roberto Rodriguez, Zuleima Rodriguez, Jose L. Rojas, Omayra Rosario, Griselda Salas, Fermin

Sanchez, Maria Santos, Juan M. Soto, Mary Soto, Warren G. Strange, Arthur K. Thomas, Jheaneth Thomas Ernesto Tinoco, Michael Torres, Teresa Torres, Teresa Tril, Katrina D. Triplett, Charleane Vaughn, Lourdes Vazquez, Jose Vera, Ramon Villanueva, and Guadalupe M. Zurita.

The 1997-98 LACASA Head Start Program participants include: Jessica Acevedo, Yahaira Aguayo, Emilio Flores, Cinthia Garcia, Casandra Guerrero, Harlene Haro, Anneliese Hartonian, Saul Hernandez, Henry James, Yarelis Nieves, Heracio Herrera, Tabitha Pearson, Marissa Perez, Amanda Ramos, Alfonso Rodriguez, Javier Torres, Kristian Torres, Zuleyka Chavez, Crystal Cuadra, Enrique Cuanetti, Selena Flores, Stefanos Glinos, Rosa Hernandez, Fabian Herrera, John Jacquez, Marcus James, Alejandro Herrera, Maria Martinez, Sabrina Millsap, Mathew Ortiz, Jeffrey Perez, Abimael Ramos, Christopher Salgado, Michael Walker, Alberto Irizarry, and Kayla Cheek.

LACASA Agency Volunteers for 1997-98 include: Mary Belle Ang, Kysha Amour-Porter, Amy Abrego, John Breckenridge, Janis Breckenridge, Terrance Martinez, Ray Acevedo, Manuel A. Roman, Carmen Fuentes, Marilu Maladonado, Maria Cuba, Georgina Martinez, Eloisa Vizcarra, Rosa Magana, Fannie Torres, Mr. Maldonado, Nelson Flores, Nora Valtierra, Samantha Long, Erica Ocasio, Dylon Long, Betty Magana, Luz Magana, Gladys Reyes, Juan Luis Alvarado, Aurora Glinos, Zuleima Rodriguez, Gabriel Magana, Jr., Albina Venegas, Jennifer Ash, James Ash, Helen Williams, Manuel Alvarez, Elena Hernandez, Stanly Garlarki, and Pat Garlarki.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the LACASA Adult Education Learners, Head Start Students, and Agency Volunteers for their dedication to the pursuit of education. I would also like to congratulate LACASA for its continuing efforts to preserve the Hispanic culture, while improving the quality of life for the Hispanic residents of northwest Indiana.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 1997*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 1997, through May 7, 1997, I was officially traveling with the President on his first state visit to Mexico and was therefore unable to vote during four rollcall votes. This includes two rollcall votes, numbered 103 and 104 on H.R. 2, the Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act; one rollcall vote numbered 108 on the Boehlert amendment to H.R. 478; and one rollcall vote numbered 109 on House Resolution 143, providing for consideration of H.R. 3, a juvenile justice bill.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes numbered 103, 104, and 108. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote numbered 109.

TRIBUTE TO EDWIN OHKI

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 1997*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding and courageous individual, Edwin Ohki. The death of Mr. Ohki on October 23, 1996, was a sad day for all of Sonoma County, where he was a longtime resident.

Born in Livingston, CA, in 1923, Ed and his family were placed in a Japanese internment camp when World War II began. After being forced to live in the camp for over a year, Ed volunteered for the U.S. Army, even though as a Japanese-American he was offered combat duty only.

Ed joined the famed 442d Infantry Battalion, the most decorated unit in U.S. Army history. During combat in Italy, he was injured and then returned to the United States to spend over four painful months in the hospital. Ed was awarded the Purple Heart for his actions. Despite his heroism and being honorably discharged from the Army, Ed was sent back to an internment camp.

After the war, Ed returned to California and graduated from the University of California, Davis. He moved to Santa Rosa, in 1951, where he later joined his family's landscape business. Ed also served as secretary of the Sonoma County Landscape Gardeners Association.

Ed was very active with the First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa, and the local Buddhist community. In addition, he served as president of the Sonoma County Japanese-American Citizen League. Ed will forever be remembered as a bridge builder—as someone who reached out to people of all racial and religious backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Ohki served his country and his community well. He consistently extended himself on behalf of many people for a variety of important causes. Our Nation owes a great deal of gratitude to him for his tireless efforts. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Anne, and their family. He will be missed by all.

A MAN OF COURAGE, AN  
INSPIRATION FOR MANKIND

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 1997*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment today to remind my colleagues of the heroic struggle being waged by Wei Jingsheng.

Wei has spent all but one of the past 18 years in Chinese prisons, jailed for the crime of advocating political democracy. Released briefly in 1993, as China sought to tidy up its public image in an effort to win the 2000 Olympic Games for Beijing, Wei was re-arrested in 1994, only days after meeting with the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, and sentenced to 14 additional years in prison. Today, he languishes in jail while his health deteriorates. His requests for urgent medical attention have gone unanswered.